

# FACT SHEET



***Schilling (ex) Air Force Base  
Salina, Kansas***

**May 2000**

## INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will be sampling surface water and soil at the Schilling (ex) Air Force Base site, as part of the Expanded Site Investigation (ESI). The purpose of the ESI is to find the source(s) of contamination and identify any additional contaminants at the site. The sampling will begin the week of May 22, 2000, and is expected to be completed this fall. The entire site is more than 4,000 acres and is located southwest of Salina in Saline County, Kansas.

## SITE HISTORY

The Schilling (ex) Air Force Base was constructed in 1942 for the Army Air Corps and was designated as the Smokey Hill Army Air Base. It was deactivated in 1945 after World War II. In 1946, the base was renamed the Smokey Hill Air Force Base. It was reactivated in 1951 to provide training and support during the Korean Conflict and underwent extensive expansion. In 1953, the base was designated a permanent Air Force Installation, and in 1957, was renamed Schilling Air Force Base (SAFB).

SAFB underwent additional reorganization and construction during the late 1950s and early 1960s and served as a multi-capable installation. The site once served as a strategic missile support, supporting remote launching facilities for Atlas and Nike missiles. Other activities on the base included industrial and maintenance support, such as munitions and missile assembly, storage, jet engine repair, and vehicle maintenance. Petroleum-based fuels, lubricants, and various solvents were used on the site.

The base was permanently closed in 1967. The properties were sold to city, county, state, or private parties by 1982. The Salina Airport Authority (SAA) operates the former SAFB as the Salina Municipal Airport and Salina Airport Industrial Center.

## **FIELD ACTIVITIES**

The primary contaminants of concern at SAFB include: trichloroethylene (TCE), mercury, carbon tetrachloride, lead, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), vinyl chloride, and semi-volatile organic compounds.

The sampling effort will be conducted in two phases. The first phase includes testing soil and surface water, and the second phase involves well installation. During the second phase of the ESI, soil and ground water samples will be collected using a track-mounted Geoprobe®. The Geoprobe® pushes three-foot long sections of pipe into the ground to collect either soil or ground water samples. After the sampling is completed, the holes will be plugged with a clay mixture. EPA will also have its mobile laboratory on-site to analyze samples.

EPA will review the information from the field work and determine what further action is required at the site.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information about the Schilling (ex) Air Force Base, please contact either of the following:

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